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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 16 FEBRUARY 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States and British aircraft based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey continued between 8 and 14 February 2000 and that the aircraft in question engaged in acts of aggression, reconnaissance activities and acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

You are requested to intervene with the United States, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the facilities for these acts of aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq.

These actions are continuing to bring death and injury to hundreds of civilians and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The logistic support that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey provide to the United States and British forces makes them key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they share international responsibility for the consequences of these actions. The Government of the Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek lawful compensation for the damage being inflicted on its people by these same actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex containing details of the violations of Iraq's airspace circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Violations by United States and British aircraft and damage caused, 8-14 February 2000

1. In the northern region, 72 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1100 hours on 8 February 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Baibo, Amadiyah, Rawanduz, Aqrah, Shaqlawa, Dohuk, Ayn Zalah, Tall Afar, Sinjar, Irbil and Mosul areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1410 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1130 hours on 9 February 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Dohuk, Amadiyah, Mosul and Tall Afar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1310 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1030 hours on 10 February 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Dohuk, Mosul, Irbil, Tall Afar, Amadiyah, Aqrah and Sinjar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1435 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1215 hours on 14 February 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Dohuk, Amadiyah, Mosul and Tall Afar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1415 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 96 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1355 hours on 9 February 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 50 missions, 24 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 26 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E2-C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Basrah,

Amarah, Kut, Hayy, Najaf, Artawi, Busayyah and Jalibah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1815 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1150 hours on 10 February 2000 United States and British F-14 and F-15 aircraft coming from Saudi territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 8 missions from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace. They overflew the Lasaf, Taqtaqanah West and Ashbajah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1305 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 0810 hours on 12 February 2000 United States and British F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from Saudi territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 14 missions from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace. They overflew the Salman, Lasaf, Ashbajah, Nukhayib and Lasaf North areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1030 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 0955 hours on 14 February 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 24 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E2-C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Salman, Lasaf, Qurnah, Samawah, Basrah and Ashbajah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1200 hours, drove them off.